

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 293979

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR SCHAUFLE FROM SEELYE, LAGOS FOR AF/W DIR. SMITH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, OEXC, NI

SUBJECT: ASSIGNMENT OF FESTAC LIAISON OFFICER

1. US ZONAL COMMITTEE REMAINS ADAMANT THAT EITHER ALL 1000 SELECTED PARTICIPANTS GO TO LAGOS FESTIVAL OR NO ONE GOES. THIS COUNTERMANDS CU PROPOSAL TO SPONSORE SMALLER GROUP PARTICIPATION, SINCE THE ZONAL COMMITTEE DOES NOT HAVE THE MEANS TO FINANCE THE REMAINDER OF THE ARTISTS' PARTICIPATION. CONSEQUENTLY, IT NOW APPEARS THAT POSSIBILITY OF US PARTICIPATION IN FESTIVAL IS PRACTICALLY NIL.

2. ABSENCE OF US PARTICIPATION MOST LIKELY TO BE ATTRIBUTED BY WIDE AUDIENCE OF NIGERIANS AND OTHER AFRICANS TO LACK OF US INTEREST IN A) FESTIVAL, B) NIGERIA, C) AFRICA IN
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GENERAL, D) BLACK CREATIVE EXPRESSION. SUGGESTION OF

US DISINTEREST IN LATTER ITEM LIKELY TO ENGENDER ADDITIONAL ADVERSE PUBLICITY WITHIN AMERICAN BLACK COMMUNITY. THE UNJUSTNESS OF THE CRITICISM WILL NOT AFFECT THE MAJORITY OF THESE CRITICS.

3. IN LAST DITCH EFFORT TO ASSIST THE COMMITTEE TO PULL THINGS OFF, AF PROPOSES SUBJECT TO CU CONCURRENCE THE FOLLOWING:

A) THAT DIRECTOR AF/P BE APPOINTED DEPARTMENT LIAISON OFFICER FOR FESTAC MATTERS.

B) LIAISON OFFICER WOULD BE LINK BETWEEN DEPT AND ZONAL COMMITTEE.

C) LIAISON OFFICER WOULD DISCUSS WITH THE ZONAL COMMITTEE THE DOLS 115,000 CU HAS SET ASIDE FOR TRANSPORTATION OF PARTICIPANTS AND EQUIPMENT TO FESTAC AND PERTINENT CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH MONIES WOULD BE SPENT.

D) LIAISON OFFICER WOULD ALSO OFFER TO ASSIST COMMITTEE BY SERVING AS A CATALYST IN BRINGING TOGETHER A SMALL BUT SIGNIFICANT AD HOC GROUP OF INFLUENTIAL BLACK LEADERS WHO WOULD ATTEMPT TO RAISE FUNDS TO FINANCE THE TRANSPORTATION OF ARTISTS AND ARTISTIC OBJECTS TO THE FESTIVAL. THE FUNDS WOULD REMAIN UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE AD HOC GROUP, AND WOULD BE USED TO PAY TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE ZONAL COMMITTEE, AND AUTHORIZED BY THE AD HOC GROUP.

E) ZONAL COMMITTEE, NOW INFORMED OF LIAISON ROLE, WOULD BE ASKED ITS CONCURRENCE IN QUOTE FRIENDS OF FESTAC UNQUOTE FUND-RAISING EFFORT PRIOR TO ITS BEING LAUNCHED. IT IS BELIEVED THAT LITTLE DIFFICULTY IF ANY WILL BE ENCOUNTERED IN OBTAINING THEIR CONCURRENCE. THE CONTROL OF THE FUND DISBURSEMENT WILL NOT BE DETAILED IN THE INITIAL PRESENTATION TO THE ZONAL COMMITTEE.

4. STATE'S LIAISON OFFICER WOULD CONTINUE TO OPERATE FROM HIS OFFICE IN THE DEPARTMENT. HIS ROLE WOULD NOT BE PUBLICIZED, AND AS STATED ABOVE, WOULD BE PRIMARILY CATALYTIC. OBVIOUSLY, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT TO WHAT DEGREE THIS EFFORT WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL, HOWEVER, THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCCESS, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, MAKES CONFIDENTIAL

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THE EFFORT WORTHWHILE. IN THE EVENT THE ATTEMPT IS NOT SUCCESSFUL, THE LOW-KEY CATALYTIC APPROACH SHOULD PREVENT ANY MORE DIRECT TIE-IN OF THE DEPARTMENT THAN ALREADY EXISTS.

5. REQUEST YOUR TELEGRAPHIC CONCURRENCE TO ABOVE.

ROBINSON

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